

honoring their fellow soldiers who gave their lives defending our freedom. The WWII Memorial recognizes and celebrates the sacrifices and unfailing loyalty that veterans demonstrated for America.

However, it has been more than sixty years since the United States joined the war efforts, yet the promises that our government initially made to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line in fighting in the Second World War are being endangered by the hacking away at the veterans' budget. They were promised health care. Most of all, they were guaranteed that their Nation would not turn a blind eye to their future needs. However, these promises have been dulled and slowed, and more and more of our World War II veterans are quietly slipping away, never to know what could have been if their government had fulfilled their promise.

We still have time to correct this injustice and to take care of our World War II veterans before it is too late. Our Nation needs to move further in a direction that allows us to reward our veterans for their sacrifices they have made, wherever and whenever they made it. Our veterans and our soldiers today remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of Americans, and along with our devoted attention given to those who wear America's uniform. Without our veterans, there would be no America, and time and time again, our veterans put the life of their country before their own. It is time that their country finally rewards them for the unfailing dedication each has demonstrated throughout their lifetime.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO SMOKY HILL
HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL
SCIENCE BOWL TEAM**

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the accomplishments of a group of Aurora, Colorado students. The National Science Bowl team from Smoky Hill High School—Nathan Artz, Chris Krueger, Anthony Eskridge, Andrew Scacco, Jessa Forthofer and their coach, Mary Bartholomew—won their regional tournament, and will be here in Washington, DC to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl Competition.

The National Science Bowl is a 4-day event, in which students attend science seminars and workshops and participate in the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Model Car Challenge. The last two days of the event, teams from across the nation are pitted against each other in a verbal competition covering every branch of science and mathematics from algebra to zoology.

The Smoky Hill team has worked diligently throughout the year to prepare for this competition and have demonstrated their academic domination in their regional successes. It is my pleasure to honor their commitment to scholastic excellence, and to wish them all the best at the competition and in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BOB PETERSON: TEXAS OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR 2004

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Dr. Bob Peterson. Dr. Peterson was recently named Optometrist of the Year by the Texas Optometric Association. He has also been awarded the prestigious William D. Pittman Leadership Award by the University of Houston's College of Optometry, which recognized Dr. Peterson's leadership in the Northshore community.

Both of these honors represent the culmination of Dr. Peterson's thirty years of leadership in our community. A fellow graduate of the University of Houston, Dr. Peterson knows the true meaning of service. During his day job as an optometrist, Dr. Peterson works to ensure the healthy vision of his Northshore patients. However, his work day rarely ends at 5 o'clock. He has been a trusted volunteer for Lord of the Streets, working to help Houston's homeless population obtain prescription glasses. He is also a member of the Northshore Rotary Club and the Northshore Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Peterson also recognizes the tremendous importance of education. Having served on the Galena Park School Board and currently a member of the Harris County Board of Education, Dr. Peterson knows the importance of a good education for our children, who are the future of our country. His work on area school boards and for the Education Foundation of Harris County is a testament to his dedication to our children and our future.

The Texas Optometric Association and the University of Houston couldn't have chosen a more dedicated, service-oriented optometrist to honor. Dr. Peterson deserves these honors and more for his tireless efforts, both in and out of the doctor's office, to keep our community healthy, strong and productive. I am honored to have him as a constituent and congratulate him on these awards and his outstanding achievements.

**TRIBUTE TO SISTER MIRIAM
THOMAS, S.C.**

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to once again pay tribute to Sister Miriam Thomas S.C., a phenomenal individual who has devoted her life to enhancing the lives of others. On Saturday, May 15, 2004, the College of Mount Saint Vincent will award Sister Thomas with the Seton Medal. Named for Saint Elizabeth Seton, this rarely given medal celebrates the virtues of hard work and service and is the highest award the college confers.

Sister Thomas was born and received her early education in South Brooklyn. Upon graduation from high school, she answered the calling to devote her life to God. At age 18

she entered Sisters of Charity where she received an invaluable theological education as well as a degree from Mount Saint Vincent College in the Bronx. Once she professed her vows, Sister Thomas brought her newly-honed ministry skills to Ascension Grammar School in Manhattan, where she remained for 8 years. She then relocated to Ponce, Puerto Rico where her education was enriched at Catholic University. After years of study she was finally ready for the South Bronx. There, she was assigned to St. Athanasius Parish where she has shared her gift of easing souls and invoking smiles for the past 42 years.

In 1972, Sister Thomas, along with her neighbors, heard that a woman who served as the administrator of Simpson Street Development Association was murdered while on the job. Courage and an unfaltering sense of devotion allowed Sister Thomas to stand up and fill this important position. There, with a tireless and supportive staff, Sister Thomas works miracles daily by providing social services and emotional guidance to people in need. Beyond these commitments, Sister Thomas also sits on the South Bronx Community Board 2 as chairperson. Her involvements in other community-based organizations are too numerous to mention. She says that her ceaseless community involvement was inspired by Father Louis Gigante, a visionary and dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her many years of service Sister Thomas has helped countless people change their outlook on life using her remarkable gift of translating the gospel into terms that lay individuals can understand. She is truly an extraordinary woman who is very much deserving of this prestigious award.

For her many years of service, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this incredible woman as the College of Mount Saint Vincent honors her with the Seton Medal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2003, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 177 on H. Con. Res. 420, recognizing National Transportation Week, 178 on H. Con. Res. 423, authorizing Capitol Grounds for the dedication of World War II Memorial, and 179 on H. Con. Res. 403 condemning the Sudan for civilian attacks in the Darfur region, due to transportation problems in getting to Washington, DC. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on all three resolutions.

**150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SALEM TIMES-REGISTER**

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the Salem Times-Register, the community newspaper that has served the good people of Salem, Virginia, for the past 150 years.